

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. We are fast approaching the monopolization of all media by those corporations whose interests are served by right wing politics. Sinclair has made the maximum allowed in monetary donations to the Bush-Cheney campaign. Allowing this sort of programming is clearly an act of partisan politics under the guise of "news" broadcasting.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the corporate minority and less of what is good for the majority of the local population. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.